

Message Text

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SUMMARY UNDP 1977-81. COUNTRY PROGRAM WILL EMPHASIZE THREE MAJOR AREAS: FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT, TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING AND REGIONAL PLANNING. TOTAL UNDP RESOURCES APPROVED FOR 1977-81 ARE US\$5.09 MILLION. ACTUAL FUNDING PROGRAMMED IS US\$4.96 MILLION, COUNTERPART FUNDING US\$2.97 MILLION. SOME PROJECTS HAVE BEEN REPHASED FROM THE 1972-76 PROGRAMMING PERIOD, AS A RESULT OF UN FINANCIAL CRISIS. AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED, PROJECTS WERE INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT THE GOG'S HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT DRIVE. THEY NO DOUBT WILL BE REPROGRAMMED AS THE GOG SHIFTS EMPHASIS TO COASTAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OFFERING QUICKER FINANCIAL RETURNS. RECENT VACANCY OF RESREP POSITION HAS LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERFACE WITH USAID. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT ROLE THE NEWLY DESIGNATED RESREP WILL TAKE IN PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG DONORS. END SUMMARY.

1. POST EFFORTS TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON UNDP ACTIVITIES
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HAVE BEEN HAMPER
D BY VACANCY OF RESREP POSITION FROM
AUGUST 1977 TO MARCH 1978, HEAVY PERSONNEL TUROVER IN
LOCAL UNDP OFFICE AND REDUCED USAID STAFFING WHICH HAVE
LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERFACE AND ACTIVE CONSULATIONS.
MOREOVER, UNDP ACTIVITIES FOR FY-78-81 HAD ALREADY BEEN
PROGRAMMED BY FALL 1977, WHEN USAID GEORGETOWN BEGAN

EXPANDING ITS PROGRAM FOR GUYANA. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, AS USAID PERSONNEL ESTABLISH CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL UNDP STAFF, POST WILL OBTAIN MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON UN ASSISTANCE EFFORT FOR EVALUATION PURPOSES. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS LARGELY BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH UNDP PERSONNEL, ARE KEYED TO PARA 7 OF REF AIR.

A. IMPORTANCE OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

1. BY UNDP ESTIMATES, DURING 1972-75, UN AGENCIES FURNISHED EXTERNAL CAPITAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF G\$6.5 MILLION (US \$2.55 MILLION) OUT OF A TOTAL G\$177.6 MILLION (US\$69.79 MILLION) OR 3.6 PERCENT. THIS PERCENTAGE IS LIKELY TO DROP AS OTHER DONORS, IN-

CLUDING THE IFI'S, BEGIN FUNDING LARGE SCALE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AT BLACK BUSH POLDER AND IN THE ABARY RIVER BASIN, AND AS BILATECUL DONORS EXPAND THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. UNDP RESOURCES APPROVED FOR THE SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAM (1977-81) ARE US\$5.09 MILLION.

2. UNDP ATTEMPTS TO PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THE STATED HOST GOVERNMENT PRIORITY TO FEED, CLOTHE AND HOUSE THE NATION. PROGRAMMING HAS EMPHASIZED TRAINING AND HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT. PROJECTS, CITED BY UNDP OFFICIALS AS HAVING MADE A STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDE: 1) ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MAPS TO FACILITATE PLANNING FOR HINTERLAND AND COASTAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. 2) FORESTRY SURVEY AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO PLAN AND PROMOTE EFFICIENT LOGGING OPERATIONS, 3) ASSISTANCE IN REGIONAL AND URBAN PLANNING FOR COASTAL AND HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT (THIS INCLUDES A LARGE TRAINING COMPONENT), 4) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNICATION TRAINING CENTER FOR TELEPHONE INSTALLATION AND TRAFFIC CONTROL. AMONG ACTIVITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES NOW BEING PROGRAMMED ARE UNESCO PROJECTS FOR RESTORATION OF AN OLD DUTCH FORT, CONTINUED TRAINING IN LIBRARY SCIENCE FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY PERSONNEL, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOG NATIONAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL.

3. SOME PROJECTS APPEAR TO HAVE PRODUCED FEW RESULTS IN TERMS OF CONTINUED ACTIVITY. A HYDROELECTRIC SURVEY UNDERTAKEN DURING THE FIRST UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM (1972-76) APPEARS TO HAVE BOGGED DOWN BECAUSE OF HOST GOVERNMENT SENSITIVITY OVER PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE UPPER MAZARUNI 3,000 MEGAWATT HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME. MOREOVER, RECENT HOST GOVERNMENT EMPHASIS ON COASTAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT HAS TENDED TO SHIFT PRIORITIES AWAY FROM HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

1. DETAILED INFORMATION ON TIMELINESS OF EXECUTION IS NOT AVAILABLE. SOME PROJECTS PROGRAMMED FOR IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE 1972-76 UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM WERE REPHASED OWING TO UN FINANCIAL CRISIS.

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2. DURING THE SECOND UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM (1977-81) COUNTERPART FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL G\$7.56 MILLION (US\$2.97 MILLION). UNDP INPUTS ARE PROGRAMMED AT US\$4.96 MILLION. UNDP OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT LOCAL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE CRITICAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY PROJECTS. IN THE CASE OF FOREST INDUSTRIES, THE GOG WILL CONTRIBUTE G\$1.554 MILLION (US\$0.61 MILLION), UNDP WILL FUND US\$1 2 MILLION. CURRENT GOG EMPHASIS IN THIS AREA WILL PROBABLY ENSURE THE NECESSARY BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER, RECENT CUTBACKS IN THE GOG BUDGET ARE EXPECTED TO AFFECT THE TRAINING COMPONENT OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROJECT, IN WHICH THE GOG IS NOW PROGRAMMED TO CONTRIBUTE G\$365,000(US\$143,000), COMPARED TO UNDP FUNDING OF US\$341,000. THE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY WILL REQUIRE COUNTERPART FUNDING G\$2.83 MILLION(US\$1.1 MILLION), UNDP FUNDING WILL BE US\$787,600.

3. UNDP OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AS GOOD. HOWEVER, THEY ADD THAT IN SEVERAL INSTANCES, THE GOG HAS FAILED TO FIX RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCED DEVELOPING INFORMATION, OWING TO HOST GOVERNMENT OMISSIONS TO COORDINATE SOURCES OF INFORMATION OR ANTICIPATE NEEDS.

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4. REGARDING DEFICIENCIES IN PROCUREMENT AND EXECUTION, ONE UNDP OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL REPRESENTS THE SIGNLE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACING THE UN SYSTEM. HE ANTICIPATES A TREND TO SUB-CONTRACTING, PARTICULARLY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

C. PROJECT EVALUATION BY UNDP AND THE AGENCIES.

1. NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED ON THIS TOPIC. GENERALLY UNDP OFFICIALS REPORT THAT REVIEW EXERCISES ARE CARRIED OUT REGULARLY. THE REVIEW MECHANISM RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF MARGINAL PROJECTS DURING FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAM TO CONCEN- TRATE RESOURCES ON LARGER PROJECTS.

D. EXAMINATION OF UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS.

1. USAID RECORDS INDICATE THAT CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE WITH RESREP TO REVIEW SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAM PROJECT PROPOSALS.

E. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING.

1. GOG BUDGETARY RECORDS INDICATE THAT UNDP GRANTS DURING FY-77 WERE G\$2.2 MILLION (US\$0.86 MILLION). UNDP OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT EXPENDITURES PROGRAMMED FOR FY-78 ARE US\$1.0 MILLION. PROJECTS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROJECT, ARE MOVING FORWARD. UNDP OFFICIALS REPORT THAT TWO PROJECTS IN FORESTRY AND TOPO- GRAPHIC SURVEYS WERE REPHASED FROM THE FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAM, AS A RESULT OF 1975-76 UN FINANCIAL CRISIS.

2. THE UNDP SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT A PROLIFERATION OF SMALL PROJECTS DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE FIRST COUNRTY PROGRAM (1972-76) RESULTED IN
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"A MARKED ABSENCE OF LARGE-SCALE, IMPACT MAKING PROJECTS". THEREFORE, EMPHASIS WAS SHIFTED TO PROJECTS IN "PRODUCTIVE" SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, WITH 83 PERCENT OF IPF EARMARKED TO LARGER PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDED TRANSPORT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, A HYDROELECTRIC SURVEY, A FISHERIES PORT COMPLEX STUDY, DEVELOPMENT OF A TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION, AND URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING. PROJECTS ELIMINATED OWING THE UN FINANCIAL CRISIS INCLUDED A DEEP WATER HARBOR STUDY AND A

PROJECT FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT.

3. AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED THE SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAM CONTINUED THE POLICY OF CONCENTRATING RESOURCES. THREE PROJECTS WERE EMPHASIZED: THE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY PROJECT, TO IMPROVE HOST GOVERNMENT CAPABILITY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MAPS NEEDED TO FURTHER THE NATIONAL GOAL OF DEVELOPING NEW AREAS IN THE INTERIOR, 2) THE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROJECTS, TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL PLANNING SYSTEM WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON SETTLEMENT OF THE INTERIOR, 3) THE FOREST INDUSTRIES PROJECT, WHICH AT THE TIME WAS EXPECTED TO COMPLEMENT THE GOG DRIVE TO DEVELOP THE UPPER MAZARUNI AND NORTH WEST REGION. THE LATTER TWO WILL UNDOUBTLY BE RE-PROGRAMMED AS THE GOG SHIFTS EMPHASIS TO COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OFFERING MORE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL RETURNS. THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED STATE PLANNING COMMISSION IS LIKELY TO REFOCUS PLANNING AWAY FROM HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT TO BROAD SCALE ECONOMIC PLANNING, TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE ENTERPRISES.

4. THE FOREST INDUSTRIES DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT IS CITED IN THE SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAM AS AN EXAMPLE OF "NEW DIMENSIONS" PROGRAMMING. MOST FUNDING HAS GONE TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT. A GOG OFFICIAL WAS DESIGNATED AS PROJECT DIRECTOR. HOWEVER, UNDP OFFICIALS REPORT THAT IN PRACTISE, PROJECTS IS BEING MANAGED BY A UNDP OFFICER. OTHER LOCAL POSITIONS IN BOTH GOG MINISTRIES AND CARICOM RECEIVE UN FUNDS TO RAISE SALARY SCALES.

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F. PERFORMANCE OF THE UN SYSTEM.

1. UNDP OFFICIALS STRESSED THE RESREP'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE UN SYSTEM AND IN RELATIONS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DONORS. THERE IS SOME FEELING THAT ABSENCE OF A RESREP FROM AUGUST 1977 TO MARCH 1978 HAS CREATED SOME PROBLEMS IN COORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UN FAMILY OF AGENCIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE JEALOUS OF THEIR AUTONOMY. THE TREND NOW IS TO BRING ALL UN ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PURVIEW AND CONTROL OF THE RESREP.

2. IBRD WILL IMPLEMENT A LARGE SCALE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH EDF. THE UNDP FORESTRY PROJECT IS DISTINCT AND IN ANOTHER LOCATION.

G. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

1. NO MECHANISMS, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, NOW EXIST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DONORS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT ROLE THE NEW RESREP WILL ASSUME IN THIS REGARD. SO FAR, THE GOG HAS TAKEN NO INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AMONG DONORS AND TENDS TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF SUCH MECHANISMS AS AN AVENUE TO REDUCE EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

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H. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT.

1. NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING EXISTS IN THIS AREA. SEVERAL WOMEN ON THE UNDP STAFF ARE EMPLOYED AS PROFESSIONALS.

I. SELF-RELIANCE AND MUTUAL SELF-HELP

1. PERSONNEL WITH THE UN PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN TRADE, TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRY OPERATE OUT OF GEORGETOWN. POST WILL DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE IMPACT IN PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG LDC'S

2. THE PRC AS PART OF ITS BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IS CONSTRUCTING A TEXTILE MILL. REPORTEDLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS PROVIDING TECH-

NICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND START-UP OF A BICYCLE PLANT.

3. CARICOM HAS SPONSORED SEVERAL CONFERENCES IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND "FUNCTIONAL" AREAS OF COOPERATIONS. THE GOG IN FALL 1977 HELD A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERY UTILIZATION.

4. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION BY SEX IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT. WOMEN ARE JOINING THE PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPY HIGH POSITIONS IN THE BUREAUCRACY INCLUDING ONE CABINET LEVEL POST. RECENTLY, THE GOG MANED A WOMAN AS CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK. THE GOG ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO JOIN NATIONAL SERVICE, A NATIONAL PARAMILITARY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION. WOMEN HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED AS OFFICERS IN THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE.
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5. THE GOG, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING CONTINUED NEED FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE STRESSES, IN FRAMING ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THE THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GUYANESE FOR THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT. TO DEAL WITH CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY A SERIOUS BOP CRISIS, THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A FOUR YEAR RECOVERY PROGRAM WHICH CALLS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTION, HIGHER INVESTMENT AND DOMESTIC SAVING, AND CONTINUED RESTRAINTS ON IMPORTS.
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